Numb. 92.

The Female Tatler.

Written by a Society of Ladies.

Nec Sequior Sexus magnis virtutibus impar.

From Wednesday February 8, to Friday February 10, 1710.

Lucinda's Day.

From my CLOSET.

Don't doubt but the daring Action of the glorious Captive of *Cyprus*, with which my Sister ended her last, will, in the Opinion of unbyas'd Judges, always far outshine that of *Lucretia*. The Deed itself is so transcendantly Heroick, that the Men, who, as has been said before, have engross'd the writing of History to themselves, envying so much Glory to our Sex, have industriously hid her Name from Posterity, when at the same time of the bad Women they have not forgot one, and *Nicostrate*, *Polidices*, *Medea*, *Martia*, *Thais*, *Messalina* and others, that were Famous for their Crimes, are very diligently recorded. Another Instance of the Men's Injustice in stifling the worth of the Women, is a *French* Maid of Incomparable Chastity, whose Name is likewise injuriously kept from us. This Beautiful Virgin had Innocently and against her Will, kindled Love in Duke *Amolon*, who having in vain assaulted her Honour all manner of ways, and ineffectually tried to win her with the most Magnificent Presents, and more Magnificent Offers, at last had recourse to Violence, and let loose his Servants upon her: She made a Noble Resistance, till by the Barbarous Villains wearied with her Constancy, she was all bloody and half Dead cast upon the Bed of *Amolon*. When the Servants left the Room, the Tyrant was no longer in a Condition to do her harm, Wine and Sleep had bound him fast enough. The Courageous Virgin spying his Sword hanging near the Bed side, drew it, and with all her Force struck upon the Head of the Tyrant *Amolon*. The Blow was Mortal, yet wak'd before it kill'd him: He acknowledg'd his Fault, praised the Virtue of his Murtheress, and commanded her to be set at Liberty.

Blanche of *Roffy*, Wife to *John Baptista de Porta*, Governor of *Bossano*, Fought compleatly armed by her Husband's side; the Governor being kill'd and the City taken, the Beautiful and Valiant *Blanche* was led in Triumph to *Acciolin*. The Lustful Tyrant was inflam'd at the Sight of her, and having tried both Threats and Entreaties to no purpose, prepared himself to force her; but the Chaste and Virtuous *Blanche* slipt out of his Hands, got into a Window, and precipitated herself from thence. The Fall put a Shoulder out of Joint, and broke one of her Arms. As soon as she was cured, *Acciolin* renewed his Addresses, but meeting with the same Constancy, he had her fastened upon a Table to accomplish his detestable Design: After which she withdrew to the Place where her Husband was Interr'd, and transported with Grief, and become odious to herself, render'd up the Ghost.

A Lady of Quality, and extraordinary Beauty, at the Siege of *Siget*, whose Husband lov'd her most passionately, and even to Jealousy, perceived that nothing tormented the Thoughts of her Lord more than that with the taking of the City, she would become a prey to the *Turks*; and finding that to get rid of this cruel Fantom, he design'd to send her out of the World before the Enemy should enter *Siget*, She took him apart and gave him to understand, that his Intention was not hidden from her; nay, she was so dextrous as to draw the Confession of it from his own Mouth. After it she conjures him not to sully his Honour with so foul a Deed, and desires to fall a Rival to his Valour, and not a Victim to his Jealousy: Both arm'd they Salley out into the Fight, where the Fire and Danger are the greatest do Wonders, and at last are overcome by a Barbarous Multitude. Feeling their Strength steal away with their Blood, they gave each other their last Embraces, and fell upon a heap of Dead Bodies, which had been Slain by their own Hands.

That there have been other Women besides *Arria*, that in the Expressions of Love to their Husbands, shew'd greater value for Honour than for Life, will be manifest from the two following Examples: When the Heads of the League in *France*, had order'd the Duke *d' Espernon* to be seiz'd on in *Angouleme*, who resolutely defended himself in the Castle; by a Stratagem they got his Dutchess in their Power, telling her nothing but her Husband's Surrender would save her Life. The Courageous Woman seeing herself reduced to this Extremity, used all the Rhetorick she was capable of, to perswade him not to be led away by a dangerous Piety for her, but have only Regard to his own Safety. She was immoveable to all the Threats of an enrag'd Enemy, and told them she would joyfully shed the last Drop of her Blood, if it would add a Moment of Lustre to the Reputation, or half a Days space to the Life of her Duke. This Generous Lady made her Husband hold out till his Friends from *Xaintes* and *Coignac* were come to relieve him. The other Example is *Francis Cezely*, Lady of *Barry*: Her Husband, the Governor of *Lancate*, being taken by Surprize, finds means to acquaint his Lady with his Misfortune, withal conjuring her to defend the Place to the utmost. She strictly obey'd him, and to those that demanded the Fortress for his Ransom, answer'd, that she understood better the worth of her Husband than any one; that she lov'd him most passionately, but that nothing should ever be found Remiss or Weak in her Tenderness, and that she ow'd her first and highest Affections to the

King

King and Fidelity. Upon her refuſing to yield, they threatned to kill her Husband, but her Conſtancy was ſtill the ſame. Their Threats are put in Execution, and the Dead Body is ſent her; yet this undaunted Woman reſolutely maintain'd the Fortreſs, and at laſt baffl'd all the Attempts of the Enemy. The Command of the Place continued to the Generous Widow, and *Henry* the Great, when ſome Courtiers affecting the Government of *Leucate*, repreſented to him, that a Place of that Importance was not ſafe in the Hands of a Woman, anſwer'd, that he repoſed more Truſt in that Woman, than in the ableſt Man of his Kingdom, and that he knew no body that could give a more Gallant earneſt and more precious Pledge of her Fidelity than ſhe had done.

Theſe were *French* Women, but in the Murther of *James* I. of *Scotland*, the Noble Efforts of *Joan* of *Beaufort*, his Queen, and *Catherine Douglas* one of her Attendants, to ſave his Life, may convince the World, that for Women of Exemplary Loyalty, we needed not to have gone out of our Iſland; and as the Table began with an *Engliſh* Heroin, to ſhew that we have had plenty of them, I ſhall end it with a Couple: The firſt is *Elpheda*, Siſter to King *Edward*, who in her Youth abandoning all Softneſs and Effeminacy, betook herſelf wholly to the Practice of Arms, by which ſhe grew ſo famouſly Glorious, aſſiſting her Brother in all his great Conflicts with the *Danes:* She Fought Hand to Hand with *Clito* the Rebel, and had (tho parted by the Multitude) the better of him in ſingle Combat. The other is *Margaret* Queen of *England*, Wife to *Henry* the VI. a Lady of great Magnanimity, that was Wiſe in Council and Valiant in the Field, and has given unqueſtionable Proofs of her Courage and Conduct both in Land and Sea Encounters.

I ſhall content my ſelf with only giving theſe few Inſtances of Female worth, in which Virtue and Goodneſs have been as Conſpicuous as Fortitude and Magnanimity; not that there are not abundance more to be found in Hiſtory of equal Deſerts with the former, but becauſe I would not be tedious by dwelling too long upon the ſame Subject. I ſhould have ſpoke of *Indegondis* and *Clotilda* of *France*; *Blanche* of *Bourbon*, Queen of *Caſtile*; *Sanchia* of *Navar*; *Gondeberga* and *Theodelinda*, both Queens of *Lumbardy*; *Blanche* of *Caſtile*, Queen Regent of *France*; and not forgot *Iſabella Infanta* of *Spain*, Arch-dutcheſs of the *Low Countries*; nor among the Antients *Placida*, the Wife of *Honorius*, who by her Perſwaſions, diverted *Antolphus*, King of the *Goths*, from his deſign of deſtroying *Rome*. I ought to have mention'd *Pompeia*, *Paulina*, the Wife of *Julianus* the Emperor, and the great Services ſhe did to her Country, and ſaid how *Dominica*, the Wife to *Valence* the Emperor, with the hazard of her Life pacify'd the Barbarous *Goths*, and hinder'd them from ſacking and utterly ſubverting *Conſtantinople*, the Metropolis of the *Grecian* Empire. Theſe and many more than I can now think of, were all Women of the firſt Rank, that have not ſtained the Glory of their great Actions by greater Crimes, as the generality of famous Men have done, among whom it is own'd that there are,

Magnæ Virtutes ſed Majora Vitia.

I have ſaid nothing likewiſe of thoſe that have excell'd in Learning, or other Qualities of an Inferiour Rank. *Helena*, the Mother of *Conſtantine*; *Momea*, the Mother of St *Auſtin*; *Theæna* the Wife, and *Dama* the Daughter of *Pythagoras*; *Priſcilla* that inſtructed *Apollo*, who afterwards was made a Biſhop; St. *Catherine*, *Androgenia*, *Valeria*, *Sempronia* and others, were famous Women that few Men can be compar'd with. Of thoſe I may ſpeak another time; but at our firſt Table I wou'd grant acceſs to none but ſuch whoſe Souls have been truly Heroick, and whoſe Actions are upon Record in Hiſtories of unqueſtionable Truth; or elſe beſides thoſe I have named, I might have fetch'd Worthies from every Nation: *Camilla* from the *Volſcians*, *Esther* from the *Perſians*, *Amalazontha* from the *Goths*, *Radegunda* from the *Galls*, *Calliope* from the *Æthiopians*, *Hippolite* from the *Magneſians*, *Electra* from the *Thebans*, *Teuca* from the *Illyrians*, *Juturna* from the *Rutilians*, *Caſſandane* from the *Medes*, and ſet down *Martheſia*, *Lampedo*, *Orythia*, *Antiope*, *Menalippe*, *Penthæſilea*, and all the *Amazonian* Race.

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